libraries and reading rooms for adult education; compulsory education to the end of the primary stage, particularly in respect of the educationally backward and economically dependent communities; the elaboration of a suitable course of studies and the provision of greater educational facilities for women; measures to safeguard and promote the health of school children; and steps to improve the efficiency of teaching in Vernacular and English schools, are only a few of the measures that may have to wait. These are many matters and large. Small reforms are the worst enemies of great reforms. And until a comprehensive scheme of reconstruction is formulated and accepted, I do not intend to break up or tinker with the existing structure. In regard to the larger measure, it should not be long before we have a committee or other competent agency seriously at work. The system of education must follow the genius of the people.

27. Unemployment.—A variety of reasons has led to the unemployment problem being inextricably mixed up with the educational question. I am not surprised. As the administration of the State became more highly organised and more complex from year to year, the need for public servants in many capacities grew rapidly. University degrees and school certificates became the only means of testing fitness for Government employment; and the whole current of our youth set towards the institutions where such qualifications could be procured. Hence our swollen colleges, our multiplicity of schools. Hence this spectre of unemployment. There is no getting away from the fact that the Government are the largest employers of educated labour in Travancore. In so far as there are Government posts available, the Government will continue to distribute them and will continue to afford equality of opportunity to every son of the soil. A change must and will come over the outlook of our people once they have manfully faced the cold hard fact of the struggle for existence. Meantime the Government will leave nothing undone to narrow the margin of unemployment. A progressive railway policy and electric and water supply schemes will open up fresh avenues of useful service.

28. Legislation.—The new Civil Procedure Code and the new Limitation Regulation, which have both come into operation from the 1st Makaram 1101, have brought the law into line with the latest enactments in British India. The two most important Regulations placed on the Statute Book in 1100 were the Nayar and the Ezhava Regulations, socio-economic pieces of legislation fraught with far-reaching consequences to two strong and important communities in the State, and fundamentally altering or affecting their law of inheritance. A similar law in respect of the Nanjinad Vellalas will soon be enacted. The Government have, in response to the demand from the *Misradaya* section of the Ezhavas, extended by three months the period for filing applications under Section 33 (1) of the Ezhava Regulation for exemption from the provisions relating to intestate succession and partition. Another important Regulation passed last year was the Village Panchayat Regulation which is intended to foster and develop local self-government in rural areas.

The first Council constituted under Regulation II of 1097 was dissolved in Kumbham last and the elections to the present Council were held in Edavam. It is an index to the growing interest taken by the people generally in public affairs that, of the 88,251 voters in the 22 constituencies, where alone the seats were contested, 63,720 or as many as 72·21 per cent. polled valid votes and that, in six of the general rural constituencies, more than 94 per cent. of the voters went to the polls.

29. Local Self-government.—The Municipal Councils, 19 in number, are shouldering their civic responsibilities in an increasing measure. The minor roads, lanes, etc., within the municipal areas of Kottayam, Quilon, Changanachery and Vaikam are to be handed over to the Councils as at Nagercoil and Alleppey. From the commencement of the current year, street lighting has been undertaken by the Municipal Council of Trivandrum, as in the remaining towns. The Councils at Attingal, Alwaye, Quilon and Padmanabhapuram are incurring expenditure on educational objects; and a scheme for the devolution of primary education on the Municipal Councils is maturing. Nagercoil has spent some money on the improvement of streets and has also taken up the investigation of a scheme for the supply of good drinking water. The Councils at Alleppey, Quilon and Nagercoil are also financing other measures for the promotion of public health.

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